

TRUTH

A REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST TROTSKYIST BULLETIN

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Remember Malice Green election day!

Archer, McPhail: No! Labor Party: Yes!

Dennis Archer, Sharon McPhail, and their supporters in the top leadership of the unions, are now urging people to vote for one of these candidates on Tuesday, November 2.

But where were Archer and McPhail when the people of Detroit were pushing for justice for Malice Green and his family and for maximum punishment for the racist police who murdered him?

Neither one of these candidates said much of anything in solidarity with Malice Green and his family or in favor of maximum punishment for the racist police. Neither one made any effort to use his or her campaign, and all the free publicity they have gotten, as a way to build support for these demands. Neither one has said a word about all the white racist police who date back to the days of STRESS and remain on the Detroit police force.

On the contrary, Archer has bragged that he is going to put more cops on the street than McPhail. McPhail has bragged that she is going to put more cops on the street than Archer, as if this were going to help the people of Detroit a lot.

And these are only the most obvious signs that neither candidate will do anything for the people of Detroit.

Each says that he or she will bring jobs to people in Detroit by catering to the needs and desires of the owners of various enterprizes so that they will locate in Detroit and hire people in Detroit.

But the more servile Coleman Young has been to the owners of the giant enterprizes



in the last 20 years, the more working people in Detroit have lost their jobs.

If you want something from the owners of the giant enterprizes, you have to fight for it, not suck-up to the owners. Many African-American people learned this over 100 years ago when they decided to enter into a civil war to abolish slavery. Many workers of all races and nationalities also learned this in the 1930s, when they decided to organize unions and strike for higher wages and better working conditions.

Working women and working men of all races and nationalities in Detroit — African-American, Spanish-speaking, Arab, white, etc. — need their own political party and their own candidates to fight for their interests against the rich white

owners of the giant corporations and the small number of rich African-Americans who serve as their lackeys.

The media tried to make it look as if all the people on the side of Malice Green and his family were Black, while all the people on the side of the racist cops were white. This was not true. There was an important number of white *working class* people who were very sympathetic to Malice Green and his family and in favor of maximum punishment for the racist police. There was an important number of relatively comfortable Black people who weren't sympathetic to Malice Green and his family and who wanted Judge Crockett to go easy on the cops.

More than anything else, what determined someone's attitude toward Malice Green and his family, was his/her position in the society. The closer you are to the bottom, the more you support Malice Green. The closer you are to the top, the more you support the cops.

The people at the bottom, the workers, Black and white, can and must build their own political party, with their own candidates.

This is why we say:
Remember Malice Green on election day!
Don't vote for Archer or McPhail!
Join the labor party movement! ■

**Forward to the founding convention
of the Labor Party in 1995! —Inside**

Convention to found a Labor Party in 1995!

A meeting of nearly 80 labor party supporters in the unions representing some 500,000 workers was held in Chicago October 9. A decision was made to go forward to found a Labor Party at a convention scheduled for 1995.

This labor party convention deserves the support of every working person in the U.S.

The decision to form a labor party is a decisive step forward for U.S. workers. A labor party is the quickest and surest way to change the workers' struggle from defensive to offensive, to put the rich on the defensive by uniting all working people across union lines, racial and sexual lines, into a political power to confront the power of the rich in the society.

The lack of a labor party has been the single biggest problem for U.S. workers. All the serious problems of the workers — racism, lack of jobs, sexism, poor benefits, bad working conditions — all of these cannot be seriously addressed as long as the workers and the unions continue to be divided by the rich, supporting the parties of the rich — the Democratic and Republican Parties.

The Chicago meeting was the first meeting of its kind in the history of the United States. This is the very first national gathering of labor party supporters backed up by international industrial unions. It is the most important meeting concerning a labor party for over 45 years.

The meeting was organized by Labor Party Advocates. LPA was founded in 1991 by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) to organize a labor party in the U.S. Since that time it has recruited thousands of members, mostly unionized workers, and many union leaders as well. It has received the endorsement of another major union, the United Electrical Workers. The San Francisco General Labor Council has officially endorsed LPA and given it office space.

LPA came into existence as a response to the growing class struggle in the U.S. — everything from the declining numbers of union members, to the bitter strikes of the 1980s, to the growing discontent with the Democratic and Republican parties by workers exhibited in the support to Jesse

Jackson and Ross Perot.

This was the first gathering of key supporters of Labor Party Advocates from all over the country.

Most of those present were local elected union leaders — local presidents, executive board members, and so on — representing nearly every major union in the U.S. There were representatives of transportation workers from New York, steelworkers from Chicago, autoworkers from Detroit, building trades from Chicago and San Francisco, miners from Virginia, communication workers, service workers, government workers. 28 states had representatives, including every major industrial state. The leading officers of the OCAW participated, as well as the secretary-treasurer of the UE.

The meeting first discussed whether the time was now to go forward to a labor party convention. The overwhelming majority present thought that it was difficult to achieve a big breakthrough in the steady recruitment efforts of LPA without setting the goal of a convention to found a labor party and the adoption of a platform. A consensus was achieved to go forward to a convention in 1995.

Plans were made to carry out this decision. First, it is necessary to involve all 65,000 union locals in the U.S. An initial mailing will be made to raise money for a fund-raising letter to all 65,000 locals and a Call to the convention will be sent to all 65,000 locals. Local chapters will follow up with the local unions through meetings, visits and phone calls.

Second, a series of hearings will be held around the country on the platform of the labor party as the way to build support for the convention and open up the discussion for a labor party among all working people.

Committees were established to prepare the convention — a platform committee to draft a platform; a rules committee to set up the rules of who can attend and vote at this founding convention; a constitution committee to draft a constitution; an arrangement committee and a fund-raising committee. The second discussion consisted of clarifying the goals of the committees and signing up volunteers.

The final discussion was a brainstorming session on the rules for who can come and who can vote at the founding convention because it was felt that it was one of the most difficult questions to resolve. Plans have been made to visit labor parties in other countries to learn from their experiences.

Everyone felt that the time was ripe; that it was possible to form a labor party that was representative of the U.S. workers in every way and become a serious contender for political power in the U.S. against the parties of the rich.

We urge all working people to support the fight for a labor party in 1995 as the quickest and surest way to change the struggle between the workers and the rich in the workers' favor. ■

Detroit LPA fights union-busting

Detroit Labor Party Advocates (LPA) held a public meeting with the Staley Workers Solidarity Committee, "Stop Union-busting!" on September 11 at UAW Local 600.

Over 75 people came. Four new people joined LPA at the meeting and \$715 was collected for the Staley workers and the striking miners.

The first speaker was Phil Keeling, president of UAW Local 3000, the Mazda plant in Flatrock, Michigan, and very active in attempting to organize parts plants that feed the Mazda plant. The next speaker, a striking miner from Illinois, said that the miners were on strike against union-busting. The main speaker was David Watts, president of the Staley workers of Decatur, Illinois, locked out because they refused to submit to a union-busting contract. The final speaker was Rick Massengill, OCAW international rep, who spoke in favor of a labor party. ■

Detroit LPA Meeting

**Sunday, October 31
2 pm, UAW Local 600
Dix and Wyoming**

**The Labor Party: how you
can make it happen**

The struggle for justice for Malice Green

Malice Green was murdered by Detroit police. Two police, Walter Budzyn and Larry Nevers, were convicted of murder, something that happens rarely in the U.S. Budzyn received 8 - 18 years in prison and Nevers 12 - 25 years. This represents a partial victory for all working people of all races.

What are the lessons of the struggle for justice for Malice Green?

It was correct. It was in the interests of all workers of all races for the police to be brought up on trial and convicted.

Once again, the people of Detroit took the lead. Several police were fired the day after the murder. African-American people struggled for the police to be tried for murder, and when the jury was selected, Detroiters convicted the two expolicemen of the most severe charge brought against the police, second-degree murder.

The mobilization continued all during the trial and through the sentencing. At every step of the way, thousands of Detroiters expressed themselves for justice for Malice Green through the NAACP-sponsored march that drew 15,000 people in early summer; through visits to and weekly demonstrations at the Green murder site; through petitions demanding maximum punishment for the convicted police.

At the sentencing, Malice Green's sister and wife, and, his ill mother through a letter, addressed the court as relatives of the victim.

They spoke of Malice Green, a steelworker for 13 years in Chicago, who returned home to Detroit to take care of his sick mother. They spoke of a father of 5 children and 4 grandchildren, who was loved by all the members of his family. They spoke of an unemployed worker who, only in the last few months of his life, suffered from drug dependency. They were deeply disturbed that the police never once expressed any remorse for Malice's murder; they were disturbed that some people were taking the side of these convicted murderers against a man who never harmed anyone, was never convicted of a crime, and who was deprived of his life without any cause. They spoke of how every human being, no matter



Detroiters celebrate conviction of police who murdered Malice Green at the murder site.

what their color, deserved to be treated with respect by the police.

Seven police were known to be involved in the beating. Only three were tried and only two convicted. The prosecuting attorney's office, which works hand in hand with police on a daily basis, only prosecuted 3 of the 7. The judge, Crockett, who also works closely with the police, let one cop, Lessnau, go free.

And, the judge, declaring that they had served the community, sentenced the police to a minimum of 8 and 12 years respectively. He is working to make sure that they do not have to serve time in the nearby prison where they would run into people they had helped convict. Rather, the authorities are trying to get them into the federal system as criminals needing protection from other inmates, like organized crime squealers who fear for their lives in prison.

It is clear that the justice system in Detroit, even though it is composed of many African-Americans, will not give justice to African-American people, unless it is under tremendous pressure. This is because it serves the tiny minority of rich families in Detroit and the suburbs.

Only a mobilization by the unions demanding justice for Malice Green in-

volving tens of thousands of workers, might have forced the prosecutors to try the other police, to press charges of first-degree murder, and to push for maximum punishment.

It is not possible for African-American workers, who make up a significant section of the unions in Detroit, to go beyond the unions without a big fight *in the unions* to make them serve the interests of African-Americans. New territory cannot be conquered unless old territory is secured.

But the top leaderships of the unions are tied to the rich in Detroit who benefit from terrorizing African-American people, tied to their political organization, the Democratic Party. The unions stood by silent, a terrible silence in the face of the murder of this unemployed steelworker.

If the unions are going to continue to exist, they need to defend African-Americans from racist police brutality. Only in this way can the unions win support of the entire working class.

Workers need their own political party, a labor party that breaks the unions from Democratic and Republican Parties, in order to advance any further along the road of justice for African-Americans. — J. Marlowe ■

Primary Election Results

Here are some of the votes for working class candidates in the Detroit primary elections that took place in September.

Mayor:

Rose Ana Berbeo — 438 or .24% of the vote.

Shanta Driver — 131 or .07%

City Clerk:

John Riehl — 4,950 or 2.95%

City Council:

James E. Harris, Jr. — 2,597 or .23%

Arlene Rubenstein — 2,661 or .23%

John Sarge — 1,036 or .09%

Candace Wagner — 1,864 or .16%

We will take up the meaning of these results in the coming issue of Truth.

NAFTA hurts workers in the U.S., Mexico and Canada

NAFTA is an agreement that will govern trade relations between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. It is supported in the U.S. by the heads of the major corporations and financial institutions. It is supported by Clinton, Republican leader Dole, and ex-presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford. It should be opposed by all workers and all working class organizations.

In Canada, all the unions and nearly all progressive organizations are against NAFTA. This is also true in Mexico.

The purpose of NAFTA is to use trade regulations to further concentrate all the wealth in all three countries in the hands of a tiny group of billionaire families in the U.S. In Canada and Mexico there are tiny groups of lackeys of these rich families — current Canadian prime minister Campbell and Mexican president Salari represent them.

Concentrating all the wealth in the hands of these billionaire families is not in the interest of any workers in the three countries. Strengthening the rich can only weaken the solidarity of the workers.

While most workers realize that NAFTA will allow greater attacks on unions in the U.S., the worst effects of NAFTA will be the increased attacks on Mexican workers.

NAFTA will allow the U.S. rich to do many more things to Mexican workers. It will allow more vicious attacks on workers' wages, rights and benefits than are permitted by current laws and practices. It will increase the conflicts among U.S. and Mexican workers over jobs, wages, benefits.

Thus, the purpose of NAFTA is to weaken the solidarity among the workers of the three countries, especially with Mexican workers, and strengthen the ability of the rich to play one group of workers against another.

A common fight against NAFTA with our Mexican and Canadian brothers and sisters by all working class forces in the U.S., will, whatever the outcome, strengthen our solidarity, inflict a real defeat on the rich and place workers of all three countries in a better position to defeat the rich.

The powerful struggles between workers and oppressed and the rich around the world do not allow a stable economic situation. The choice is not between NAFTA and the current situation, but between NAFTA and a struggle against NAFTA.

War is the method of "trade"

The current war by the U.S. in Somalia, the war against Iraq, and before those, the invasion of Panama, the bombing of Libya, etc., these are the methods of "trade" of the U.S. rich. All these wars were fought and are being fought to increase the profits of the owners of the corporations, through oppressing other countries — imposing wretched conditions of trade, of daily life, on smaller nations around the world.

Many workers want to know, on what basis is it possible to organize equitable trade between the U.S. and other countries?

The only way to begin to organize equitable trade with other countries is the removal of all U.S. troops from every country on this planet and the immediate end of all support to dictators in other countries. There must be full recognition of the right of all nations to self-determination without any economic or military blackmail from the U.S. government or U.S. corporations. Only from such a foundation could trade negotiations

begin.

And, while it may be possible for a brief time to impose such trade agreements through a government controlled by the rich, only a *workers government in the U.S.* can guarantee trade agreements that are based on working class principles and thus strengthen the solidarity among the workers of the world. — J. Marlowe ■

Immigrant workers!

Over 1,000 demonstrated in solidarity with immigrant workers, including undocumented workers, in Los Angeles on October 2.

Demonstrators demanded equal rights for immigrant workers, an end to Clinton's policy against refugees, an end to California Governor Wilson's plans to deny citizenship to the children of immigrant workers, and other policies against the interests of working people.

Representatives of the United Farm Workers, the United Electrical workers union, the Service Employees International Union, the Garment Workers union, and other unions participated in the demonstration. This is an important development; in the past many unions have supported the bosses' attacks on immigrant workers.

Trotskyists from the Partido de Accion Revolucionario, associated with the International Revolutionary Current of the International Workers League (Fourth International) also participated in the demonstration.

An on-going coalition has been formed to continue the struggle. ■

Clinton's health care plan

The Clinton health care plan will not improve the quality of health care for people in the U.S. and should be opposed by all working people and their organizations.

The proposed plan makes many claims, but, when you read the fine print, the plan makes sure that the profits of the health care industry remain safe — profits for insurance companies and hospitals. At the same time, it allows big corporations, like the auto manufacturers, who have been forced by unions to provide health care, to cut their costs while their workers and all taxpayers pay the bill.

All working people are in favor of health care coverage for all people in the U.S. Surveys indicate that most Americans favor a single-payer health care system — that is, a health care system that eliminates private insurance companies from health care, making the

government the only insurer.

Similar national health care systems exist in every major industrial country on the planet — England, France, Germany, Italy, Canada. And, every country that has national health care has an *independent political party of the working class*. In the U.S., that means a *labor party*.

We urge all workers to join in opposing Clinton's plan. We think workers should fight for *nationalization of the entire health care system*, the removal of profit-making from all health care. This is the only way to obtain quality health care, equal health care for all individuals. As a first step toward eliminating profit-making from health care, workers should support a single-payer health care system that eliminates profits for insurance companies from health care. — J. Marlowe ■

Support striking women at Blue Cross!

3700 mostly women workers at Blue Cross/Blue Shield in Michigan have been on strike since September 20.

The women are fighting for higher wages and for retaining their current health care benefits and sick time policy.

As women on the picket line have been saying: "We're not angry, we're not mad. All we want is what we had!"

The owners of Blue Cross want to increase the amount of money that women will have to pay for health care. They also want the right to discipline women who use too many personal days and/or sick days.

Blue Cross claims to be a non-profit corporation. This shows what it is really about; making money for people at the top.

We urge all working people to support the women at Blue Cross. Join them in picketing, which is taking place Monday through Saturday, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is especially important since there has been no small amount of violence against the women on the picket lines. A guard hit a woman in the face in Southfield; managers have hit picketers with their cars; at least one striker has been arrested.

One of the biggest problems facing the striking women workers is that top leaders of the AFL-CIO and the UAW, including Frank Garrison, Ed Scribner, Ernie Lofton, Steve Yokich, and Bill Casstevens are also part of the top management of Blue Cross. They are collaborating with men from GM, Ford, and Chrysler who are also part of the management of Blue Cross, in trying to cut costs at Blue Cross by cutting workers' wages and benefits.

The place to start cutting costs is at the top. The president of Blue Cross recently received a \$65,000 salary increase, bringing his salary to about \$600,000.

Working women at Blue Cross certainly have a right to demand that top leaders of the AFL-CIO and the UAW get out of the management at Blue Cross. It's impossible to fight for the interests of the workers, and those of GM, Ford, Chrysler, Blue Cross, etc., at the same time.

But this by itself won't solve the



problems.

Women workers are going to have to have the right to strike, and use it for a long time. Even in a working class society, in which workers have their own party, their own government, and own the resources in society, women workers are going to have to have the right to strike and use it, to defend their interests.

But right now, today, this strike shows that women workers need their own political party, a labor party based on the unions, and their own candidates for office.

There isn't a single, solitary Republican or Democratic Party candidate or official

Notes

The ban on payment for abortions through Medicaid in Detroit approved by voters in 1988, has meant that thousands of poor women are having babies that they don't want to have. A recent study shows that the birth rate among Detroit teenagers rose faster than anywhere else in Michigan — 30% between 1988 and 1990. The last four years following the ban, 1988 - 92, compared to the four years before the ban, 1985 - 88, shows that: births to mothers with inadequate prenatal care rose 54%; babies with low birth weights rose 33%; children with critical medical needs rose 30%. Many of the young women who had babies said that they would have gotten abortions, but they had no money. It is a woman's right to choose whether she wants to have a baby, not society's right to force her to have children. Free abortions to all women who want them is what all workers should be for. It is a basic democratic right.

Women workers at Pilot Metal Products, a company that makes fuel lines for *Ford Motor Company*, have filed lawsuits against the firm and some co-workers for sexual harassment during a UAW organizing drive. At one time the UAW had over half the plant in favor of a union. But, due to a campaign of harassment that included some workers tossing a pro-union woman worker around and spreading sexual slanders about union supporters, the vote has been postponed. Unions need to make a special effort to support organizing drives

who has used his or her campaign, or his or her position in public office, to try to build support for the striking women at Blue Cross. These women are isolated. Hardly anyone knows about this strike.

Building a labor party will bring together women from different enterprises. It will mean they will have representatives in public office who will use their positions to fight for the interests of working women. A labor party will be able to make a larger and more united fight for higher minimum wages, inexpensive quality health care, and the rights of workers to miss work without being disciplined, in contracts and in legislation. In other words, building a labor party will help create conditions that will be more favorable for women winning their fights.

We urge everyone who wants to see working women at Blue Cross and everywhere else get ahead, join the fight for a labor party, beginning with the fight for a successful founding convention in 1995. — M. Guttshall ■

among women workers by every means available.

Women placed on involuntary unpaid leave for being pregnant filed charges with the Civil Rights Commission. In 1990, Handleman Company's warehouse in Brighton basically fired three pregnant women because their doctors said that they could not lift more than 20-25 pounds. They rarely did on their jobs anyway and could have easily found help for those rare occasions. In May, 1993, three years later, the Civil Rights Commission heard their case and a ruling could come any day. Handleman Company was and is wrong. These women deserve back pay and a job for life, at this company. The unions need to use their strength to force quicker hearings with the force of law on violations of women's rights. As one of the women, Michelle Fedpausch, put it, "Women have babies. That's just the way it is."

On September 22, women workers laid off by *Ameritech* picketed in front of its headquarters in downtown Detroit. Ameritech has announced plans to get rid of 1500 management employees — mostly supervisors of various types. In April, 13 workers sued Michigan Bell, claiming they were fired or demoted because of their age, race or gender. Their attorney says that he hears from new victims all the time, primarily "women workers in their 40s." It is time for the unions to defend white collar women workers, even if they are unable now to belong to a union. ■

The labor party and socialism

Readers of *Truth* know that we have been fighting for a labor party based on the unions and for working class or labor candidates for some time.

The convention to found a labor party being planned by Labor Party Advocates, with the support of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, the United Electrical workers union, and the San Francisco Labor Council, is especially important.

The founding of a labor party based on the unions — a framework in which working people will be able to discuss and decide what they think should happen in this society and organize to fight for their goals — will be a terrible blow to the Republican and Democratic Parties in Michigan and Detroit.

The Republican and Democratic Parties, with their agents in the media, the unions, and the schools, are huge propaganda machines. They work night and day to convince young people, working people, the poor and oppressed, that their interests, and the interests of the fabulously rich families in Bloomfield Hills, Grosse Pointe, and elsewhere, are the same, and that youth, workers, poor and oppressed, should support whatever the rich are up to, or, at least not actively oppose it.

This propaganda machine has a terrible affect on youth, workers, poor and oppressed. They end up supporting people and things that are against their interests — like Republican and Democratic Party candidates for office; Clinton's various economic plans, health care plans, education plans; Engler's plans, Coleman Young's plans, etc. Or they end up passive or demoralized, believing that all these things may be bad, but that there is absolutely nothing that they can do about them; they may turn to religion, drugs, violence, crime, etc.

So anything that begins to break up this propaganda machine and its influence over masses of workers and oppressed, and begins to provide a framework in which they can discuss and decide things for themselves, is a step in the right direction. It's a step toward the liberation of the working class. It means getting some of the weight of the exploiters and their paid propagandists, off the backs of the workers, so that they can stand up straight, see what's going on around them, and begin to fight for their own interests.

At the same time, it's important to remember that the founding of a labor party by itself won't solve all the problems facing youth, workers and oppressed in the Detroit area.

We need our own party and our own government; we need public ownership of the basic resources in the society, so that we can decide what to do with them; we need independent and armed citizens patrols to protect the inter-

ests of the people and the dissolution of racist, sexist, anti-working class armed forces like the Detroit police force, the National Guard, etc.

We need a working class and socialist revolution in which the masses of workers take all the power into their own hands and crush the resistance of the exploiters and oppressors. We need a party to lead this fight.

This is why we not only urge readers to join and build Labor Party Advocates, and to do everything in their power to make the founding convention of the labor party a success. We also urge them to join and build *Truth*. *Truth* is fighting for the revolutionary socialist program of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, and for unifying all forces fighting for this program. It's open to anyone in the Detroit area who agrees with this program and wants to unify all forces fighting for it.

We urge revolutionaries in other cities to join groups fighting for these goals or, if they can't find one, to initiate one. This in turn will lay the basis for a nation-wide congress bringing together fighters for the revolutionary socialist program of the Fourth International throughout the U.S., adopting resolutions on the situation and tasks facing revolutionaries, electing a leadership with real authority among

revolutionaries throughout the U.S., and developing a publication with real authority among revolutionaries throughout the U.S.

Many tendencies that claim to be national are really simply extensions of one local group, in which virtually everything is subordinated to the interests of this local group, with all the strengths and weaknesses that this group may have. A party capable of leading the masses of workers to power will have to be different; it will have to be deeply rooted in the best traditions of workers throughout the U.S. and closely linked to the best traditions of workers throughout the world. This is what *Truth* is striving for. — M. Guttshall ■

300 issues of Truth!

The next issue of *Truth* is number 300. It will include articles on the struggle that *Truth* has been waging for nearly 20 years, since September, 1974.

Socialism and why U.S. troops are in Somalia

The majority of Americans want the U.S. out of Somalia. This is good. Many Americans think that the U.S. army is getting mired in another "Vietnam." This shows that Americans are beginning to understand something about the true role of U.S. troops in Somalia — to protect the interests of oil companies in the Middle East. This has always been the role when U.S. troops are sent to other countries by Democratic and Republican party politicians — they do what the rich families want.

The U.S. troops were originally sent to Somalia, George Bush claimed, on a "humanitarian" mission to help feed the starving people and stop the "warlords." But the worst famine was over, and the warlords had been part of the dictatorship that the people overthrew! But the real reason is now known across the country — to control Somalia's resources against the wishes of its own people.

Only a *workers government* in the U.S. can make sure that U.S. troops do not oppress people in other countries. A workers government will treat other countries with mutual respect and work out fair and democratic trade agreements that benefit both the U.S. and the smaller country.

A workers government will take control of the social and natural wealth of the United States *away* from the group of billionaire families, and place it at the service of the society. As long as we have a government controlled by the rich, the rich will continue to send U.S. troops to do their bidding oppressing the smaller countries of the world and trying to deprive them of their resources.

A workers government will be a first step towards a socialist society — where there are no rich and no poor, where everyone has everything they need, and no nation oppresses another. — J. Marlowe ■

No tears for the privileged parliament!

A few days ago, Yeltsin, president of Russia, used troops to physically disperse the Russian parliament.

For people in the West, accustomed to some sort of representative democracy, the picture of a president using troops to disperse a parliament is disturbing. But it's necessary to remember what the parliament represented and what Yeltsin represents.

The Russian parliament was made up almost entirely of representatives of the privileged bureaucracy and their party, the so-called Communist Party. These people live much more comfortably than most people in Russia, and they do so at the expense of the people.

Yeltsin, on the other hand, came to power on the basis of the working class and popular movement against the privileged bureaucracy and its party. Yeltsin does not represent this movement. On the contrary, he represents another faction of the privileged bureaucracy and its so-called Communist Party, that thinks it's necessary to try to build a new political party and channel this movement into a restoration of capitalism. The other faction aims to simply crush the movement and take all the profits from capitalism for themselves. Yeltsin and Co. think it's necessary to spread them around a little more.

So there is no reason to shed tears over the dissolution of the Russian parliament. On the contrary, the dissolution of this reactionary institution is a step forward for the workers and oppressed of Russia.

Now it is necessary to fight for free elections now, for a popular assembly in which the workers and oppressed can decide the fate of Russia themselves, and for the workers to put forward their own, independent candidates for this assembly.

Here is the declaration of our international tendency on this question.

A Constituent Assembly in Russia!

The serious crisis that has opened up in Moscow is beginning an even fiercer period in the harsh class struggle that is taking place throughout the old USSR, and can push the working class, once again, to organize itself more and better in order to take its destiny into its own hands. Its advance will be firmer, the more decisive the working class is in *intervening in its own interests* in this serious crisis, not leaving the political arena free to the different rival bands of bureaucrats: the Yeltsins, the Khasbulatovs, the Terejovs ... The crisis itself is already a *consequence* of an immense popular discontent that has been breaking out in a multitude of protests and strikes, that was most recently and powerfully expressed in the general strike in the Ukraine against the Krav-

chuk regime, and that is nourishing the irrepressible movement for self-determination among Soviet peoples.

It is only possible to take a correct position, in accord with the workers' interests and socialist objectives, beginning from a fact: that the whole movement unleashed by the fall of the brutal Stalinist dictatorship can and must lead to *the workers themselves*, with their new organizations and representatives, taking state power into their own hands, in order to take charge of, in the most *direct and democratic way*, the management of the state economy and the control of the entirety of the economy. Because only in this way can the state economy cease to be a system of corruption, bureaucratic plunder, waste, parasitic-ness, laziness, and oppression, and become an extremely powerful springboard for the progress and well-being of the people, for true socialism.

Thus the workers are the social force that is most interested in dissolving Khasbulatov's parliament as quickly as possible — a parliament selected by the totalitarian and corrupt bureaucracy itself — and in electing a new representation of the people as quickly as possible.

Oust Khasbulatov and his parliament of bureaucrats once and for all! Oust the red and brown alliance of imperialists, anti-semites, and reactionaries that defend it.

It is certain that Yeltsin wants to get rid of this parliament in order to bring capitalism to Russia. But the hord of privileged and enriched functionaries that express themselves through this parliament also want capitalism. In this, Yeltsin and Khasbulatov are wolves from the same pack.

But the people cannot tolerate — less than Yeltsin! — the continuing opening of the abyss of incredible economic disorder, organized crime and fraud on a grand scale, semi-imperialist military adventures, misery in the midst of corruption, into which the country is sinking and the people are suffering, and whose threads all lead back to the abuse, the ambitions, the dirty business and the Swiss bank accounts of the bureaucratic hierarchs in Khasbulatov's parliament.

The working class has every reason to take all its forces into the streets and put an end to this intolerable situation, beginning with dispersing the parliament. But it doesn't have any reason to support Yeltsin, a wolf from the same pack. Rather, it must act on its own behalf and in the interests of the entirety of the people, demanding:

Immediate elections to an *Assembly* with a constituent character, endowed with *all powers*, formed in the broadest and most democratic representation of the people: the

workers, the peasants, the retirees and unemployed, the simple soldiers ...!

The working class must demand this with strikes, demonstrations, assemblies in factories, declarations from unions and parties, *organizing themselves* to achieve it.

Above all, the most conscious workers in Russia don't want to leave the control of the elections to the bureaucracy that is destroying the country and starving the people, neither to Khasbulatov nor to Yeltsin. In the hands of these types, the elections will not be truly democratic, nor give power to the people, but will end up in a parliament that will be a new gambling house of speculators and mafia-types: power will continue in the hands of the bureaucracy and its decisions will bring more misery to the people.

The workers must begin to create their committees and organizations in order to *watch over* the electoral process, they must mobilize themselves against any attack on *freedoms*, they must put forward from the *independent unions* and all sorts of workers organizations *their own candidates*, only workers.

Don't vote for the old functionaries of Stalinism, nor for the nouveau rich, nor any class of speculators or privileged: *only workers*, men and women based in their unions!

The workers movement in all countries has the responsibility to back all the steps of the Russian working class in this direction. The Trotskyists grouped in the International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International) call on all our friends and sympathizers in Russia to work in this direction, and we offer them all the support they need and demand of us in order to carry it forward.

Down with the Khasbulatovs and the Yeltsins!
For a sovereign constituent assembly!
Make way for the working class!

International League (for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International)
September 22, 1993 ■

Solidarity with Bosnia!

Reports on:
• the Workers' Aid to Bosnia convoy;

• the international meeting of solidarity held in Barcelona, October 2.

In the next Issue of Truth.

Guerrilla girls attack racism and sexism in the fine arts

The Guerrilla Girls are an activist group in New York City which considers itself to be the "Conscience of the Art World". Their members are women artists who wear gorilla masks — both to get media attention and to maintain personal anonymity. (They want the issues to be discussed directly — not in terms of their personal careers.) On Wednesday, September 29, 1993, they presented their work and their strategies to a fully-packed auditorium at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Two women in gorilla suits showed slides of their posters. They passed out bananas to audience members with the best and worst questions.

The main activity of the Guerrilla Girls is to put up striking posters around New York City. These posters are designed to startle people with the harsh reality of discrimination against artists who are women and racial minorities. The most blunt poster showed a famous nude painting with a gorilla mask for a head. The headline read: "Do women have to be naked to get into the Met[tropolitan] Museum? — Less than five percent of the artists [whose work is] represented in the Met are women. But 85% of the nudes are women." Another poster simply states that while women in general earn only two-thirds of what men earn, *artists* who are women earn only one-third of what male artists earn.

Many people believe that the art world is more "enlightened" than the rest of society. The Guerrilla Girls point out that this is not true — that a larger proportion of bus drivers are women than of employed artists. This is particularly important to note for those who believe that working class people are the source of sexism and racism. In this society, art is almost exclusively the domain of the wealthy — the ruling class. It follows that if women and racial minorities are discriminated against in the art world, it is the choice of the ruling class. The Guerrilla

Girls do not, however, make this point explicitly.

Still, much of the work of the Guerrilla Girls points very directly to people who are responsible for discrimination. They publish lists of museums, galleries and auctions which do not show works by women or racial minorities — or which show very few. They name corporations — for example, Chase Manhattan Bank — which sponsor male artists (95%) or white artists (96%) almost exclusively. The reasoning behind their criticism of such discrimination — beyond that it is unfair — is that we all suffer from the lack of a broader range of creativity which women and minorities provide. They argue that art is what makes us human — and that if artists are limited to white men (only 39% of the population in the U.S.) then our humanity is limited. One of their posters is blank on one half and on the other half it says, "You're seeing less than half of the picture without the vision of women artists and artists of color." This is certainly true, but is a limited view of the problem. As long as some people are systematically underpaid and under-represented, the ruling class can divide us into smaller, narrow groups which cannot succeed in fighting them. As long as we allow discrimination based on race or gender, we allow ourselves to be confused that we are each others' enemies — instead of recognizing that our joint enemies are the rich people who live off of the rest of us.

The Guerrilla Girls acknowledge their limited scope. They believe it is their narrow focus — sex and racial discrimination on the NY City art scene — which has given them their greatest success and durability as an activist group. They have, however, ventured into wider political arenas. During the Persian Gulf War in 1991, they advertised that 250,000 people had been killed, but that the media blitz of U.S. television completely glossed over

these deaths. They note the plight of the homeless: "Q. What's the difference between a Prisoner of War and a homeless person? A. Under the Geneva Convention, a prisoner of war is entitled to food, shelter and medical care." And they've offered a class perspective on the U.S. budget priorities: "More money has been spent on the S&L failures than has been spent on welfare since its inception."

What is most valuable about the Guerrilla Girls is their direct and compelling demonstration of the problems of discrimination, while remaining irreverent and not being easily intimidated. They discussed some of their methods — they use wheatpaste with shards of glass in it to put up their posters. (This makes the posters very difficult to tear down.) They paste up their posters in strategic, public places — traveling in small, gorilla-costumed groups at odd times when they are less likely to be harassed by police or property owners. They target specific people to embarrass — naming corporations, galleries or individuals whose practices are discriminatory. (They recognize that this is more effective than a private, personal appeal to the offenders to do what's right.) They make television and public appearances where they are resolute about their cause while appealing to people through humor. (They allude to their gorilla suits by eating bananas, beating their chests, or just looking silly.)

A review of their posters — produced since 1985 — is being shown in the Center Galleries at the Center for Creative Studies at Woodward and Kirby, Detroit. It is free to the public. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, until October 29. Also, the Guerrilla Girls have a quarterly newsletter which they call "Hot Flashes." It is available by writing to 432 LaGuardia Place #23, New York, NY 10012. Subscriptions are "\$9 for women and people of color, \$12 for white males." — K. Morgan ■

Truth is published by the Trotskyist Committee of Detroit. The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is named after Leon Trotsky, a leader of the first successful workers socialist revolution and a founder of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution. The Trotskyist Committee of Detroit is associated with one of the international tendencies of the Fourth International, the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International. Editors: M. Guttshall and J. Marlowe

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Long live the "intifada"! No to the Rabin-Arafat pact! Down with the State of Israel!

We are reprinting declarations on Somalia and Palestine by the Liaison Commission that is made up of representatives of the International Revolutionary Current of the International Workers League (Fourth International) and representatives of the International League for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International.

We think the formation of this Commission and these declarations represent an important step in bringing together Trotskyists fighting for the program of the Fourth International and in beginning to learn to work together toward our common goals.

We urge other Trotskyists to support and join in these efforts. For further information on this Commission, contact Truth. ■

The Palestinian cause, with which the vast majority of workers and oppressed around the world sympathize, is threatened by the pact signed in Washington by Rabin and Arafat. The "intifada," one of the most heroic uprisings of a people for their rights against imperialism, has been betrayed by part of its leaders: the top bourgeois layer of the PLO. The Israeli state, puppet for the imperialist bourgeoisie, military outpost for the oppression of the Arabs by the big bourgeois powers, has obtained complete recognition by Arafat: a capitulation in fact.

It is necessary for the workers and all supporters of the Palestinian cause to decidedly confront this so-called "peace accord" and offer all their support to the "intifada" and the Palestinian fighters that continue the struggle in new and more difficult conditions. The tenacity, the heroism, and, above all, the profoundly popular character of the "intifada" will end up conquering this new obstacle in its road. Let's give them all our support until a democratic, secular republic rises up on the historic territory of Palestine and guarantees the living together of the people on the ruins of the racist, imperialist State of Israel!

They are lying those who say that the concessions of Arafat and the accord with Israel favor the Palestinian people. The Israeli bourgeoisie has been forced to make concessions because of the irrepres-

sible force of the "intifada." But the concessions of Arafat to imperialism reinforce the Zionist state, try to demobilize the "intifada," divide the Palestinian people, and convert a section of the PLO into collaborators with the enemy in oppressing their own people.

It is no accident that the accord comes sponsored by Washington, by the imperialist butchers of the Iraqi people, by the aggressors in Somalia. It is no accident that all the semi-feudal and reactionary regimes of the Middle East have contributed in some way to the accord, an accord which causes sorrow for all the Arabs sympathizing in great numbers with the struggle of the Palestinian vanguard. And it is no accident that this accord has been born in long, secret negotiations, hiding from the people what was being plotted, without even convoking the Palestinian parliament.

The illusions in this pact, amplified by the biased imperialist propaganda, will disappear. The struggle of the people will sweep them away. The general strike in Gaza and the statements of spokespersons and tendencies of the Palestinian resistance against the betrayal of Arafat, show openly that the people will not allow the demobilization, that the "intifada" will continue. New leaders will take the place of those that back down. Even those that hope that the people might get something

out of this miserable pact will inevitably join those that are rejecting and calling for a fight once again.

We demand:

— immediate freedom for the ten thousand Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jails;
— the free return of all the Palestinian refugees in other countries, of the deportees ...

We maintain firmly the objective of a Palestinian Republic, democratic and secular.

The most consistent fighters of the Palestinian resistance, those that oppose the pact-betrayal of Rabin-Arafat, the partisans of extending and deepening the "intifada," will now be the object of attacks, slanders and all types of persecution on the part of imperialism and from those that have backed down before imperialism around the world (like the parties wrongly called "socialist" and "communist.")

The workers and democratic organizations, in the first place, the Trotskyists, must organize as soon as possible an international campaign to support them and to sustain them in their just struggle.

Long live the "intifada"! No to the Arafat-Rabin pact! Down with the state of Israel!

Liaison Commission
September 21, 1993 ■

Imperialist troops out of Somalia! Support the Somalian resistance!

The assassination of civilians and fighters, the helicopter machine-gunning of demonstrations protesting the troops, have shown the true face of what imperialism calls "a humanitarian intervention." The North American, German, Italian, and other troops, have not come to Somalia to bring food, but to stop it from being an independent nation, to take possession of it and steal their oil, to establish a base for troops in order to try to control Africa and the Middle East.

Imperialism, which aimed with this military intervention to give a "show of strength," is getting exactly what it deserves. The Somalis have confronted the troops with mobilizations while General Aldid's guerrillas have directed their arms and struggles against the invading troops. In this way the people are fighting and arising against the aggression.

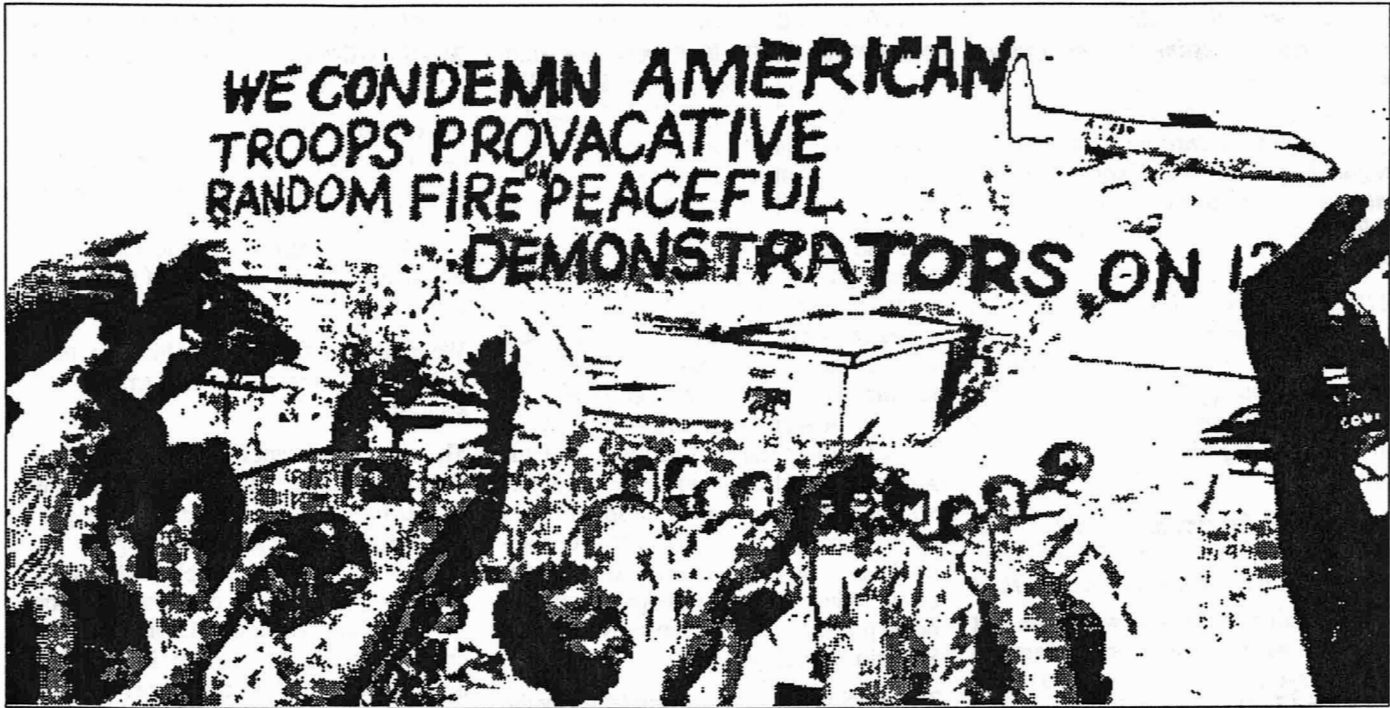
In this way, Somalia has become a fundamental place of struggle of all the peoples and workers throughout the world. For this reason, it needs the support of all those throughout the world struggling against imperialism's plans of hunger and domination.

For this reason, the workers and peoples must make common cause with the people of Somalia. It is necessary to demand the immediate withdrawal of the UN's murderous troops, and, at the same time, support the Somali resistance.

The Liaison Commission calls for protest actions for the withdrawal of UN troops and for solidarity and support to the masses and the guerrillas struggling against the intervention.

Liaison Commission
September 21, 1993 ■

No more blood for oil! U.S. out of Somalia now!



Somalians demonstrate against U.S. attacks on Somali people.

Clinton just decided to send 2,000 more U.S. troops to Somalia. He has said that, no matter what, all U.S. troops will be out by April. He is responding to polls that show the *majority* of Americans want the U.S. out.

He says U.S. troops are there to help feed the Somali people. This is a lie. U.S. troops went there after the worst famine was over, and against the wishes of many relief workers.

The U.S. troops are there because the owners of U.S. financial enterprises and oil monopolies want control of oil deposits either in or near Somalia and of other natural resources in Africa and the Middle East. George Bush used the famine and the sympathy of Americans to get troops over there. When the U.S. set up its headquarters, it used the headquarters of *Conoco Oil Company*. This makes it perfectly clear that the U.S. troops work for Conoco in Somalia. U.S. troops are there to stop any small nation from freeing itself from the control of the big rich countries and controlling its own resources.

In any event, it's obvious that the masses of people in Somalia don't want "U.S. aid," or they wouldn't be fighting U.S.

troops and killing U.S. soldiers. They know this is a risky thing to do after the U.S.'s slaughter of thousands of innocent people in Iraq.

We urge young people, working women, and working men, of all races and nationalities in the U.S. to demand that the U.S. government get all U.S. forces out of Somalia now! Demand that the unions begin an all out fight to make this happen with meetings, demonstrations, strikes.

As long as the resources of the U.S. — men and women, machines, materials, etc.

— continue to be used to rob oil and other resources from other peoples, and to subjugate and crush other peoples, neither working people in the U.S., nor anywhere else, are going to be able to make big progress toward a better life.

Working people of all races and nationalities need to work together to produce and distribute what people need.

Down with U.S. oil thieves!
All U.S. forces out of Somalia now!
Freedom and independence for the people of Somalia! ■

International Day of Action

**U.S./U.N. Troops out of Somalia!
Self-determination for the Somali people!**

**Meeting, Saturday, October 30, 1 p.m.
New Bethel Baptist Church
8450 C.L. Franklin Blvd.,
Linwood at Philadelphia, Detroit**